Class: 10^{th} Power Sharing (Ch:1) Pol. Science

Q1) What are the different forms of power sharing in modern democracies? Give an example of each of these.

Ans: The different forms of power sharing in modern democracies are:

1. **Horizontal Form of Power:-** The power is shared among the different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. In this form of power sharing, the different organs of the government placed at the same level, exercise different powers. This separation of powers ensures that each organ should be limited to its own sphere of action without interfering in the matter of the others and the each should be independent within that sphere. Example: The distribution of power between Indian Parliament (legislature), the council of ministers headed by chief ministers (executive) and Courts of India (judiciary).
2. **Vertical Form of Power:-** It involves the division of powers between the higher and the lower levels of the government. In such a power sharing arrangement, the power is shared among the governments at different levels i.e. a general government for the entire country and the governments at the provincial or regional level. Example: In India, power is shared among Central government, State government and local governments.
3. **Power Sharing among different Social Groups:-** Power may also be shared among different social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups. This form of power sharing is used in many countries to give proper share of power to minority communities. Example: 'Community Government' in Belgium.
4. **Power Sharing among Political Parties, Pressure Groups and Movements:-** Political Parties, Pressure Groups and Movements control or influence those who are in power. Different political parties contest elections for power which ensures that power does not remain in one hand and shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. Example: Multi-party system in India like B.J.P, I.N.C, B.S.P etc. Pressure groups and movements influence the decision making process like FICCI, Jamaat-e-Islaami, RSS, Hurriyat Conference, JKLF etc.

Q2) State one prudential reason and one moral reason for power sharing with an example from the Indian context.

Ans: A prudential reason for power sharing is that it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between the various social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure political stability. Imposing the will of the majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run, it undermines the unity of the nation. In India, seats have been reserved in the Legislatures for the socially weaker sections keeping in mind the prudential reason for power sharing.

A moral reason for power sharing is that it upholds the spirit of democracy. In a democratic setup, the citizens too have a stake in governance. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. In India, the citizens can come together to debate and criticize the policies and decisions of the government. This in turn puts pressure on the government to re-design its policies and re-consider its decisions. This active political participation is in keeping with the moral reason for power sharing.

Q3) After reading this chapter, three students drew different conclusions. Which of these do you agree with and why? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

> ***Thomman – Power sharing is necessary only in societies which have religious, linguistic or ethnic divisions.***
> ***Mathayi – Power sharing is suitable only for big countries that have regional divisions.***
> ***Ouseph – Every society needs some form of power sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions.***

Ans: I agree with the conclusion of Ouseph as every society needs some form of power sharing even if it is small or does not have social divisions. Power sharing leads to efficiency. Democracy itself stands for people of the government, if people are consulted in the decision making process then it instills a sense

of participating in them. In power sharing system we have lesser conflicts in terms of law and order with the government. People will be more satisfied when they have a say in the functioning and decision making process in the system.

Q4) The Mayor of Merchtem, a town near Brussels in Belgium, has defended a ban on speaking French in the town's schools. He said that the ban would help all non-Dutch speakers integrate in the Flemish town. Do you think that this measure is in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangements? Give your reasons in about 50 words.

Ans: This measure has not been taken in keeping with the spirit of Belgium's power sharing arrangement. As per the power sharing arrangement in Belgium, Dutch speakers and French speakers have stake in power. The Brussels government has equal representation from the French speaking people and the Dutch speaking people, which shows that both groups have to respect each other's rights. By banning French, there will be civil unrest in the country. Both the languages should be made acceptable in the town's schools as the main purpose of the power sharing arrangement is to maintain peace between the French and Dutch speaking constituencies. This bi-lingual education system will be a better way to integrate the people of the town. Hence, the Mayor of Merchtem is wrong in banning the French language in the schools.